

bility of physical facilities and financial resources. The objective of Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan is primarily to serve the special educational needs of children of transferable Central Government and Central Government undertaking employees.

Closure of Indian Airlines and Air India

[Translation]

723. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and the Air India are likely to be closed down due to their continued losses; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to minimise the losses suffered by these Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While Air India has not suffered any loss, Indian Airlines has incurred losses owing to problems basically regarding induction of A-320 fleet.

These problems have taken care of and additional measures are also being taken to improve productivity and efficiency of the Corporation. Indian Airlines is expected to turn the corners next year.

[English]

Direct Air Flight from Rajkot-Delhi and Back

724. SHRI CHANDRES PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of representa-

tions have been received in his Ministry for starting a direct flight on Delhi-Rajkot route;

(b) if so, when the said flight is going to commence; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Due to capacity constraints, there is no plan at present to operate a direct flight between Delhi and Rajkot.

Fire In Gir Forests

725. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire broke out in Gir forests recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the extent of loss suffered in terms of financial as well as the percentage of the jungle burnt; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such fires in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There was a fire in Gir forests in October, 1991.

(b) The fire was accidental in nature.

(c) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The steps taken to prevent fire include

- (i) Creation of extensive fire lines on both sides of the road;
- (ii) Regular patrolling of the area by the staff;
- (iii) Deployment of Fire Watchers during the fire season; and
- (iv) Setting up of wireless net work.

Financial Irregularities in Jawaharlal Nehru University

726. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDLWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Financial irregularities worth lakhs in JNU" appearing in the Times of India dated August 31, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to probe the financial irregularities in JNU through vigilance; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and other remedial steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The news-item appearing in the Times of India dated August 31, 1991 refers to:

- (i) Non-deduction of pension from salary of the Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University;
- (ii) Defalcation of funds in the School

of International Studies; and

- (iii) The alleged mis-appropriation of funds by Prof. A.K. Verma of the School of Life Sciences of the University.

These complaints had been brought to Government's notice earlier also and Government had called for detailed comments of the University. According to the information furnished by JNU, the position in this regard is as follows:

- (i) Prof. M.S. Agwani, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University is drawing his pension in addition to his pay since 1.3.1988. The University is of the view that the pay of Prof. Agwani has been fixed in accordance with Statute 3 of the Statutes of the University and that these Statutes do not provide for deduction of pension from the salary of Vice-Chancellor.
- (ii) Defalcation of funds to the tune of about Rs. 2.32 lakhs on account of postage stamps and franking machine in the School of International Studies was detected by the University in April, 1989. After preliminary investigations, the University appointed in September, 1989 a Fact-Finding Committee to inquire into the said received by the University in August, 1990. JNU has informed that on the basis of the findings of the Inquiry Committee, the University initiated disciplinary proceedings against the six defaulting employees. The inquiry is near completion.
- (iii) Vice-Chancellor, JNU had constituted a Fact-Finding Commk-